

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4621

To provide for grants, a national clearinghouse, and a report to improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 24, 1998

Mr. CASTLE (for himself, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. LAZIO of New York, Mr. QUINN, Mr. SAWYER, and Mr. SHAYS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide for grants, a national clearinghouse, and a report to improve the quality and availability of after-school programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “After-School Children’s
5 Education (ACE) Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Children’s activities outside of school have
2 a critical and long lasting impact on school achieve-
3 ment and future success.

4 (2) Approximately 24,000,000 school-age chil-
5 dren are in need of adult supervision while their par-
6 ents are at work.

7 (3) Experts estimate that almost 5,000,000
8 school-age children spend time without adult super-
9 vision during a typical week and that these children
10 are more likely to engage in risky behavior such as
11 drug and alcohol abuse, sexual activity, loitering on
12 street corners, and truancy.

13 (4) The prosperity of the Nation depends upon
14 maximizing and fulfilling the potential of its young
15 people.

16 (5) Many parents report that they would like to
17 enroll their children in after-school enrichment ac-
18 tivities but that they are prevented from doing so by
19 prohibitive costs, transportation difficulties, worries
20 about neighborhood safety, and a shortage of avail-
21 able options.

22 (6) While there are gaps in the availability of
23 after-school programs, there are many outstanding
24 programs for the Nation’s youth, including programs
25 sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America,

1 the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of Amer-
2 ica, YMCAs, mentoring programs, and athletic and
3 other programs operated by public schools, churches,
4 day care centers, parks, recreation centers, family
5 day care, community organizations, law enforcement
6 agencies, service providers, and nonprofit organiza-
7 tions.

8 (7) Before the United States can meaningfully
9 expand the supply of after-school programs, accurate
10 information must be available regarding the types of
11 after-school programs available, significant areas of
12 unmet need in the quality and availability of after-
13 school programs, barriers which prevent or deter the
14 participation of children in after-school programs,
15 and barriers to improving the quality and availability
16 of after-school programs.

17 **SEC. 3. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTS.**

18 The Child Care and Development Block Grant Act
19 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 9858 et seq.) is amended—

20 (1) in section 657A(b)(3), by inserting “, in-
21 cluding after-school programs” after “child care”;

22 (2) in section 657B, by striking
23 “\$1,000,000,000” and inserting “\$1,010,000,000”;
24 and

1 (3) by inserting after section 658G the follow-
2 ing new section:

3 **“SEC. 658H. AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM GRANTS.**

4 “A State that receives funds to carry out this Act
5 for a fiscal year shall use not less than 1 percent of the
6 amount of such funds, in coordination with child care re-
7 source and referral centers to the extent practicable for
8 activities that are designed to improve the quality and
9 availability of after-school programs, including one or
10 more of the following:

11 “(1) Informational assistance, including assist-
12 ance to kindergartens, elementary schools, and high
13 schools within the State, for placement of children in
14 kindergarten through high school in age-appropriate,
15 enriching after-school programs.

16 “(2) Coordination of after-school programs.

17 “(3) Development of innovative, age-appro-
18 priate, age-appealing, and enriching after-school pro-
19 grams.

20 “(4) Development of creative funding strategies
21 to help make after-school programs affordable for all
22 parents.”.

23 **SEC. 4. CLEARINGHOUSE FOR AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS.**

24 The Secretary of Health and Human Services,
25 through the Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Fami-

1 lies and in consultation with State child care agencies and
2 child care resource and referral centers, shall establish a
3 clearinghouse to provide technical assistance regarding es-
4 tablishment and operation of after-school programs and
5 models of after-school programs. The clearinghouse shall
6 be available to the public, including via Internet, and shall
7 serve as a resource for communities and individuals seek-
8 ing to improve the quality and availability of after-school
9 programs.

10 **SEC. 5. GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT.**

11 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
12 of this Act, the General Accounting Office shall transmit
13 to Congress a report containing the following:

14 (1) For each State, a description of the types
15 of after-school programs that are available for stu-
16 dents in kindergarten through grade 12, including
17 programs sponsored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of
18 America, the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts
19 of America, YMCAs, and athletic and other pro-
20 grams operated by public schools and other State
21 and local agencies.

22 (2) For 15 communities selected to represent a
23 variety of regional, population, and demographic
24 profiles, a detailed analysis of all of the after-school
25 programs that are available for students in kinder-

1 garten through grade 12, including programs spon-
2 sored by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, the
3 Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America,
4 YMCAs, mentoring programs, athletic programs,
5 and programs operated by public schools, churches,
6 day care centers, parks, recreation centers, family
7 day care, community organizations, law enforcement
8 agencies, service providers, and nonprofit organiza-
9 tions.

10 (3) For each State, a description of significant
11 areas of unmet need in the quality and availability
12 of after-school programs.

13 (4) For each State, a description of barriers
14 which prevent or deter the participation of children
15 in after-school programs.

16 (5) For each State, a description of barriers to
17 improving the quality and availability of after-school
18 programs.

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